



Aug. 21, 2013

TOURING SULLIVAN COUNTY'S MUSEUM

. . . while dusting

Last Thursday night was the Sullivan County Historical Society's annual dinner/meeting held at the Forksville United Methodist Church with a wonderful dinner served by the ladies there. The speaker, Robert E. Lee, III did a presentation on his outhouse digs and had brought along many of the artifacts he'd unearthed. Of interest was that there were many bitters bottles among his collection and also shown at various digs throughout the power point. He explained that to cover the cost of the Civil War the government imposed a tax on bottled alcoholic beverages. Simultaneously,

many medicinal products were also being sold at that time and on average contained 80% alcohol themselves. So, to avoid taxation, many products simply enhanced their contents slightly and called them bitters or medicine, thereby avoiding taxation. And the public caught onto this rather quickly, hence a great number of these bitters bottles were found in Bob's outhouse digs. This was just one tidbit to glean from his talk but most interesting.

This weekend marks the end of official summer hours for the museum on Sat., Aug. 24th (and we'll be open Thurs. the 22nd and Fri. the 23rd) from 1 to 5 p.m. Then you can see us at the Sullivan County Fair from Thursday thru Sunday from noon to 8 p.m. each day. Following that we're usually in the museum on Tuesdays and Thursdays – personal schedules and weather permitting. So, contact us for an appointment or to be sure we're in by calling (570)946-5020 or email museum@scpahistory.com

This is also the time of year when we thank the many volunteers who help make YOUR museum possible. So, here begins the list: Dee Tarcza, Wilson & Winnie Ferguson, Nancy Spencer, Patty Lane, Kathy & John Gardner, Carol St. Clair, Ann Batley, Pauline Leister, Becca Ferguson, Karen Heisman, Gwen Klus, Mike Krause, Josephine Lewis, Donna Long, Henry & Anne Street, Mike and Becky Hedgecock, Amy McGee, Jeff Randall, Jim & Lynn Tooley, Phil & Dick Holcombe, Waldo & Joan Kilmer, Annabelle Rogers, Bob Mitteer and Barb Calaman. Without the kindness of these individuals and countless others, Sullivan County's Historical Society Museum could not exist for you today. So, please, if you see any of these folks give them your personal thanks.